1. Development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala for Rs. 1450.00 lakh sanctioned to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi.

2. Purchase of Ferries in Tamil Nadu for Rs.52.70 lakh sanctioned to Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Ltd., Chennai.

Ministry of Tourism has also sanctioned following projects for development of river cruise in the year 2008-09:

i) Rs.2042.35 lakh for development of Ganga Heritage River Cruise in West Bengal;

ii) Rs.4309.91 lakh for integrated development of infrastructure for Heritage and River Cruise Development on Mandovi and Zuari river in Goa.

Development of tourist spots in Andhra Pradesh

*90. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects completed/being executed by her Ministry to develop tourist spots in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and till date during the current year;

(b) by when the ongoing projects are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the new tourism development projects likely to be undertaken in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of places of tourist importance/interest is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations every year under various schemes.

Project proposals that are complete in all respect, are appraised as per scheme guidelines on inter-se-priority basis and funds are sanctioned, subject to availability under the respective head.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned following funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years:

Sr. No.	Year	No. of projects sanctioned	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2007-08	9	2629.48
2	2008-09	8	10980.58

Implementation and execution of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors the progress of projects through site visits and review meetings from time to time.

The following projects have been sanctioned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for grant of Central Financial Assistance during 2009-10 (till 30.6.2009):

Sr. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Jammulamma Reservoir at Jammiched Cheruvu, Mahabubnagar District	232.00
2.	Village Etikoppaka District Visahkhapatnam (Hardware + Capacity Building to Service Provider) (Rs. 45.95 lakh+ Rs. 13.95 lakh)	59.90

In addition to the above, one proposal for promotion of Rural Tourism at Dharmavaram at an estimated cost of Rs.20.00 lakh, was received during the current financial year, which was not as per guidelines and hence has not been sanctioned.

Torture of Indian students in Australia

†*91. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government considers attacks on Indian students in Australia as the internal affair of that country;

(b) if not, whether such statement has been refuted; and

(c) the stand taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Government of India's deep anguish at the incidents involving Indian students in Australia and its concern about their welfare was conveyed to the Australian authorities at the highest level. It has been unequivocally conveyed that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As stated in (a) above.

Grant for development of cities

*92 SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the important cities of Orissa like Bhubaneswar, Puri, Behrampur, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Rourkela, Jajpur are receiving more financial grant in comparison to other neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the amount released for the development of the above stated cities alongwith the utilization details?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The cities of Bhubaneswar and Puri are covered under the Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) component of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The details of projects sanctioned, funds released/utilized for these two cities are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

The towns of Behrampur, Cuttack and Sambalpur are covered under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and first installment of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) has been released for infrastructure projects for these towns. However, no projects for Jajpur and Rourkela have been sanctioned under the scheme by the State level sanctioning committee and recommended to the Government of India. Details of ACA released to the above three towns and utilization thereof is as per Statement-II (see below).

The quantum of ACA to States is dependent on various factors such as urban population of the States, the preparation of quality Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the States, its appraisal and approval by the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) and availability of funds.